

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
U.S. Rural Electrification Administration

A CO-OP QUIZ FOR YOUR 1951 ANNUAL MEETING

From time to time a few of the REA electric co-ops have devised lists of questions or quiz contests to help their members become more familiar with uses of rural electricity and with the organization and operations of the co-op which supplies the power to them. Wherever these quiz features were used they turned out to be real hits with the members.

Some of these questions, along with additional ones, have been put into the "50 Co-op Questions" attached. This is offered to you for use as an attraction at your 1951 Annual Meeting. By sending a copy of the questions and answers to each member and then announcing that some of your usual attendance prizes will be given to quiz winners you will be able to combine a useful membership information device with a program feature which will help draw the big attendance you want at your next Annual Meeting.

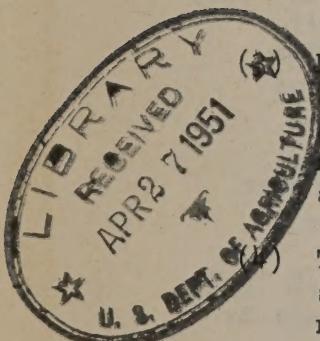
Tips on using the 50 Co-op Questions

- (1) The attached list of 50 Co-op Questions is a sample which any co-op can reproduce after filling in the blank spaces of questions designed for local use. REA is not able to furnish quantities of these lists for distribution to members.
- (2) Questions which do not apply in your own co-op may be dropped out and replaced by questions which you think are more useful to your local situation.

Multiple-answer questions are used to prevent arguments about correct replies. The member repeats answer "a," "b," or "c," as the case may be, and only one reply can be correct. This makes the referee's job easier and prevents ruffled feelings among participants.

The entire list of 50 Co-op Questions and the correct answers should be mailed out to each member sometime in advance of the meeting, together with information about the contest to be held. You may want to have the questions and answers mimeographed, reproduced by photo-offset, or printed, and then enclose them with the notice of the Annual Meeting or with the issue of your newsletter prior to the meeting.

- (5) Everyone likes to play a game. This can be presented to members as a contest for the whole family to try out ahead of the meeting date.
- (6) Publicity should be given in your newsletter and Statewide paper, on the radio, by posters, and even through friendly appliance dealers to take maximum advantage of the 50 Co-op Questions as a feature of the Annual Meeting.



- (7) Several prizes should be provided for contest winners. If you have been offering appliances as general attendance prizes, set aside a few of these for the winners of your Co-op Quiz. Let the members work a little for the prizes this year instead of leaving distribution of prizes wholly to luck. Pictures of the prizes could be used for advance publicity.
- (8) At the meeting the actual details of the Co-op Quiz may be worked out as follows:
  - (a) Numbered Quiz tickets distributed to members ahead of the meeting would be torn in half at the door, the member retaining one numbered half and the other numbered half being dropped into a "Members' Bowl."
  - (b) At the scheduled time during the meeting some selected child or notable who is not a member draws from the "Prize Bowl" a slip indicating which prize is being offered. The prize is announced.
  - (c) From the "Members' Bowl," in which the numbered ticket stubs have been stirred or shaken, a numbered stub is drawn. The number is called, and the member holding the other half bearing the same number steps forward to the microphone to be introduced. In case no one responds after a pre-announced period of, say, one minute, a second stub is drawn.
  - (d) The drawing official then takes a question at random from the 50 Co-op Questions which have been typed on separate slips and mixed in the "Question Bowl."
  - (e) The question, with its alternate answers, is read over the microphone and then the member is given a pre-stated period of time -- perhaps 10 seconds -- to repeat the correct answer over the microphone, "a," "b," or "c," whichever is correct. Only one answer would be permitted.
  - (f) The referee would have the list of questions and the correct answers and announces whether or not the question was answered correctly.
  - (g) If correctly answered, the contestant would then be given the prize indicated. If a wrong answer is given, another member and another question would be drawn for the same prize.
  - (h) Some smaller consolation prizes (cartons of light bulbs, for instance) should be given to losing contestants. The correct answer should be given by the referee to questions not answered correctly by contestants.

- (9) A limit of one prize to a member is guaranteed by this method. There can be one prize or a dozen given out in this manner, depending upon how much time out of the meeting program is believed desirable and upon the number of prizes available for this purpose.
- (10) The occasion of each reply may be used by the president or some other official of the co-op to expand on the question and correct reply with some comment which would be useful in driving home the point to members and visitors present.
- (11) No one would be permitted to bring notes of any sort to the microphone. Prompting would be disallowed, of course.
- (12) There should be follow-up publicity after the meeting, to publicize the winners and also to emphasize again the correct answer to the questions drawn and asked.
- (13) Those co-ops which have district meetings could use this as a major feature of these district meetings, giving small prizes for from three to five winners. These district winners could then be put into competition at the Annual Meeting as a highlighted additional event for a special major prize. This would help to boost attendance at the district meetings and would also offer an attraction for members of each district to back their contestants by attendance at the Annual Meeting.
- (14) One co-op conducted the Co-op Quiz on an entirely different basis. It offered a light bulb to every member who listed the correct answers to 20 questions selected in advance. (It finally gave away one bulb, to a member who missed one question.) After the lists were turned in the correct answers were read from the platform at the meeting. This brought the full scope of the questions to the attention of everyone present instead of limiting the discussion to three or four questions selected by chance.
- (15) Many variations in the use of the 50 Co-op Questions are possible, provided, of course, that due care is taken to assure fairness to all members and to achieve the most effective educational and publicity use from the contest.

## 50 CO-OP QUESTIONS FOR MEMBERS

How much do you know about your Co-op and the REA program? There is only one right answer to each of the numbered questions or statements which follow. Mark the one you think is correct by placing a check mark in front of the letter "a," "b," or "c." Do this for each of the 50 questions. Then check your answers against the correct answers listed at the end of the Quiz. Multiply the number you had correct by 2 to get your percentage.

1. Who owns the electric system which serves you?

- ( ) a. The manager.
- ( ) b. The members.
- ( ) c. The Government.

2. What is the exact name of our electric Co-op?

- ( ) a. \*
- ( ) b.
- ( ) c.

3. About how many members are there in our Co-op now?

- ( ) a. About \*
- ( ) b. About
- ( ) c. About

4. Who is the manager of our Co-op?

- ( ) a. \*
- ( ) b.
- ( ) c.

5. How many directors are there on our Co-op's board?

- ( ) a. \*
- ( ) b.
- ( ) c.

6. How much did our Co-op pay in property taxes last year?

- ( ) a. About \*
- ( ) b. About
- ( ) c. About

7. How many cents out of every dollar of your electric bills last year went to pay for the power purchased at wholesale?

- ( ) a. \*
- ( ) b.
- ( ) c.

---

\* Any co-op official using this Co-op Quiz should insert one correct and two incorrect answers in each of these local questions before reproducing it for use.

8. Up to the end of last year, what was the cash value of the ownership equity we members built up for ourselves in the Co-op?

- ( ) a. \*
- ( ) b.
- ( ) c.

9. How many REA electric co-ops are there in the State of \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* ?

- ( ) a. \*
- ( ) b.
- ( ) c.

10. In return for their services to our Co-op, the directors:

- ( ) a. Are paid by the Government.
- ( ) b. Are paid salaries by the Co-op.
- ( ) c. Receive only a fee amounting to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* for each board meeting attended, to cover out-of-pocket costs.

11. The money our Co-op received from REA:

- ( ) a. Is a gift or subsidy from the Government.
- ( ) b. Must be paid back with interest.
- ( ) c. Must be paid back without interest.

12. If you have a complaint about service, you should:

- ( ) a. Tell your friends about it.
- ( ) b. Keep quiet and wait for things to get better.
- ( ) c. Notify the manager.

13. Our REA Co-op pays:

- ( ) a. No Federal income tax, because it is a nonprofit association and has no income.
- ( ) b. No Federal taxes.
- ( ) c. No taxes at all, because it has special exemptions which make it tax-free.

14. What is the Capital Credits Plan?

- ( ) a. It provides credit for members who cannot pay their bills on time.
- ( ) b. An REA program for lending funds to the members of the co-op for rewiring and plumbing installations.
- ( ) c. A method for establishing each member's individual share in the ownership of the co-op.

---

\* Any co-op official using this Co-op Quiz should insert one correct and two incorrect answers in each of these local questions before reproducing it for use.

\*\* Fill in before reproducing this Co-op Quiz for use.

15. In a co-op, a member has:
- ( ) a. Only one vote.  
( ) b. No vote until he has been a member at least a year.  
( ) c. As many votes as he has shares of stock.
16. How is electricity commonly measured?
- ( ) a. By watts, marked on electric light bulbs and appliances.  
( ) b. In kilowatt hours, marked kwh on your meter and on your bills.  
( ) c. In horsepower, as marked on electric motors.
17. What state has the most REA electric co-ops?
- ( ) a. Minnesota.  
( ) b. Georgia.  
( ) c. Texas.
18. Which of the following is one of the Rochdale principles of cooperation?
- ( ) a. One vote per member.  
( ) b. Savings divided in proportion to amount of stock held.  
( ) c. Credit to those in need.
19. Most co-op failures have been due to:
- ( ) a. Attacks by big business corporations.  
( ) b. Following Rochdale principles.  
( ) c. Poor management and uninformed members.
20. In the U. S. there are:
- ( ) a. About 700 co-ops of all types, other than REA electric co-ops.  
( ) b. About 10,000 purchasing and service co-ops and more than 7,000 producer and marketing co-ops.  
( ) c. About 7,000 purchasing and service co-ops and about 1,000 producer and marketing co-ops.
21. It is true that, generally speaking, co-ops are:
- ( ) a. Home-owned by the people who formed them and joined them to serve their own needs.  
( ) b. Organized and controlled by a few persons for the benefit of the community.  
( ) c. Established and owned by the Government.
22. Are the REA electric co-ops obligated to serve farms and homes in the thinly settled parts of their service areas?
- ( ) a. Yes.  
( ) b. No.  
( ) c. Yes, but only if the farmer is willing to build his own extension from the highline.

23. The purpose of an electric co-op is:
- ( ) a. To make a profit for its stockholders.  
( ) b. To furnish service to its members at cost.  
( ) c. To put the Government in the power business.
24. What percentage of American farms had central station electric service in 1935, when REA began?
- ( ) a. Less than 5%.  
( ) b. About 10%.  
( ) c. Just under 50%.
25. What was the percent of electrified farms in the entire country in 1950?
- ( ) a. Less than 60%.  
( ) b. About 95%.  
( ) c. About 85%.
26. The number of consumers now served by electric co-ops and other REA borrowers is:
- ( ) a. About  $3\frac{1}{4}$  million.  
( ) b. Less than 1 million.  
( ) c. About 2 million.
27. What rate of interest does our Co-op pay REA on borrowed money?
- ( ) a. One-half of 1%.  
( ) b. 4%.  
( ) c. 2%.
28. Over how long a period does the Co-op have to repay the Government for money borrowed?
- ( ) a. 70 years.  
( ) b. 12 years for the first loan and 10 years for subsequent loans.  
( ) c. 35 years.
29. The main object of a co-op power use program is:
- ( ) a. To help the dealers sell more equipment.  
( ) b. To help the members to use power efficiently and profitably.  
( ) c. To get the REA loan paid back quickly.
30. A 40-watt bulb can provide adequate poultry house lighting for:
- ( ) a. About 200 square feet of floor space.  
( ) b. About 1,000 square feet of floor space.  
( ) c. About 2,400 square feet of floor space.

31. About how many uses have farm families found for rural electricity?
- ( ) a. Approximately 400 different uses.  
( ) b. Approximately 120 different uses.  
( ) c. Between 70 and 80 different uses.
32. One of the things a member can do to help our Co-op to operate efficiently is:
- ( ) a. To ask to have his meter checked every month.  
( ) b. To pay his bill promptly.  
( ) c. To use more power during the peak load periods around noon and around suppertime.
33. How much electricity is required to run a  $\frac{1}{4}$  hp utility motor?
- ( ) a. About 12 kwh per hour of use.  
( ) b. About 4 kwh per hour of use.  
( ) c. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  kwh per hour of use.
34. Regular thorough sprinkling of farm gardens (with water which may be pumped by electricity) has been found to increase the yield by as much as:
- ( ) a. 5%.  
( ) b. 50%.  
( ) c. 100%.
35. Tests show that use of an electric pig brooder can cut losses between farrowing and weaning time by:
- ( ) a. 10%.  
( ) b. About 5%.  
( ) c. About 50%.
36. When a fuse burns out, you should:
- ( ) a. Replace it by a new fuse of the same amperage.  
( ) b. Call the Co-op office to have service restored.  
( ) c. Replace it by a new fuse of greater amperage.
37. An electric iron should not be plugged into an overhead light socket because:
- ( ) a. This reduces the amount of light needed to see the ironing.  
( ) b. The iron cord gets in the way.  
( ) c. The wires in an overhead light are not heavy enough to carry the 1000 watts which most irons use without damaging their insulation.
38. The ordinary portable electric space heater uses about the same number of watts as:
- ( ) a. Ten 100 watt light bulbs.  
( ) b. Ten 40 watt light bulbs.  
( ) c. Ten 25 watt light bulbs.

39. Wiring inspection is important because:
- ( ) a. It is required by the Government.  
( ) b. It provides additional jobs for working people.  
( ) c. It prevents accidents which might result from faulty wiring.
40. Co-op members can finance the purchase and installation costs of electrical and plumbing appliances:
- ( ) a. By direct loans from REA.  
( ) b. By loans from the co-op using special funds supplied by REA.  
( ) c. Only by non-Government financing.
41. If there are several different types of co-ops in an area:
- ( ) a. They should all work together on matters of common interest.  
( ) b. The electric co-op should ignore them, for they have nothing in common.  
( ) c. The electric co-op should try to buy out the other types of cooperative business.
42. REA is making loans for cooperative generating and transmission facilities:
- ( ) a. To put commercial power companies out of business.  
( ) b. So that the Government will have a greater hold on the power industry.  
( ) c. So that the electric distribution co-ops will have sufficient power at reasonable rates to supply the needs of their members.
43. To extend and improve telephone service for farmers and other people in rural areas:
- ( ) a. REA is making loans to existing telephone companies and to old and new telephone co-ops.  
( ) b. REA is making loans to individual subscribers.  
( ) c. REA is making loans to the electric co-ops so they can go into the telephone business.
44. When members use less power at the peak periods (noon and around suppertime) and more power during the off-peak periods (especially during the night):
- ( ) a. They enable the co-op to provide better service and keep rates low.  
( ) b. They waste power.  
( ) c. They save the Government money.
45. A copy of the co-op's bylaws is given to each member:
- ( ) a. So that each member knows what his rights and responsibilities are.  
( ) b. Because this is required by the Public Utilities Commission.  
( ) c. In order to acquaint members with the rate schedule.

46. Unlimited proxy voting in a co-op:

- ( ) a. Is democratic because it allows members to vote even when they don't attend the annual meeting.
- ( ) b. Is undemocratic because it allows some members to control many votes while others do not vote at all.
- ( ) c. Should be encouraged because it makes the co-op more like a big commercial corporation.

47. For herds of 20 to 25 cows, the labor saved by the use of the electric milker will average:

- ( ) a. About 5%.
- ( ) b. About 15%.
- ( ) c. About 50%.

48. If an REA electrical co-op takes in more money from its members than the cost of doing business, this amount is called:

- ( ) a. An overcharge and is generally returned to the members in cash.
- ( ) b. An overcharge and is generally credited to the account of the individuals as their share in ownership.
- ( ) c. A profit which is used to build up the financial reserves of the co-op.

49. The organization and growth of our REA electric co-op:

- ( ) a. Has helped the communities in our service area by increasing payrolls, by boosting farm income, and by increasing the taxable wealth.
- ( ) b. Has hurt the communities in our service area by driving other enterprises out of business.
- ( ) c. Has hurt the communities in our service area because it is owned by the Government and therefore does not pay local taxes.

50. When and where did co-ops first appear?

- ( ) a. Ten years ago, in Soviet Russia.
- ( ) b. About 30 years ago, in Sweden.
- ( ) c. Before 1850, in the United States, England, and other Western European countries.

CORRECT ANSWERS TO 50 CO-OP QUESTIONS

1b	26a
2*	27c
3*	28c
4*	29b
5*	30a
6*	31a
7*	32b
8*	33c
9*	34b
10c	35c
11b	36a
12c	37c
13a	38a
14c	39c
15a	40b
16b	41a
17c	42c
18a	43a
19c	44a
20b	45a
21a	46b
22a	47c
23b	48b
24b	49a
25c	50c

---

\* Indicate correct answer before reproducing for use.

Alternate Questions for Use in Place of Any of the  
"50 Co-op Questions" Which Cannot Be Used

1. The Manager of our Co-op:

- ( ) a. Is appointed by the REA in Washington.
- ( ) b. Is elected by majority vote of the membership.
- ( ) c. Is selected by the Board of Directors.

2. A member may be expelled from the Co-op:

- ( ) a. For refusing to pay his electric bill.
- ( ) b. For criticizing the management at the Annual Meeting.
- ( ) c. For failing to report outages promptly.

3. The principal reason for holding the Annual Meeting is:

- ( ) a. To award door prizes to members.
- ( ) b. So that the members can have a good time at least once a year.
- ( ) c. To elect directors, consider reports, and take action on other business as provided in the bylaws.

4. In repaying the Government loan, our Co-op is:

- ( ) a. Ahead of schedule.
- ( ) b. On schedule.
- ( ) c. Behind schedule.

Correct Answers to Alternate Questions

1c

2a

3c

4\*

---

\* The correct answer will depend upon the individual co-op in which this Quiz is used.